

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related thereto be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 264) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 264

Whereas every day in America, 15 children under the age of 19 are killed with guns;

Whereas in 1994, approximately 70 percent of murder victims aged 15 to 17 were killed with a handgun;

Whereas in 1995, nearly 8 percent of high school students reported having carried a gun in the past 30 days;

Whereas young people are our Nation's most important source, and we, as a society, have a vested interest in helping children grow from a childhood free from fear and violence into healthy adulthood;

Whereas young people can, by taking responsibility for their own decisions and actions, and by positively influencing the decisions and actions of others, help chart a new and less violent direction for the entire Nation;

Whereas students in every school district in the Nation will be invited to take part in a day of nationwide observance involving millions of their fellow students, and will thereby be empowered to see themselves as significant agents in a wave of positive social change; and

Whereas the observance of this day will give American students the opportunity to make an earnest decision about their future by voluntarily signing the "Student Pledge Against Gun Violence", and sincerely promise that they will never take a gun to school, will never use a gun to settle a dispute, and will use their influence to prevent friends from using guns to settle disputes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) the Senate designates October 8, 1998, as "the Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence"; and

(2) the President should be authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the school children of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE  
RECEIVED DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 12, 1998, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3610. An act to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3910. An act to authorize the Automobile National Heritage Area in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4566. An act to make technical corrections to the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 with respect to the courts and court system of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 4567. An act to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the per beneficiary and per visit home health payment limits under the medicare program, to improve access to health care services for certain medicare-eligible veterans, to authorize additional exceptions to the imposition of civil money penalties in cases of payments to beneficiaries, and to expand the membership of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

H.R. 4735. An act to make technical corrections to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 295. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the 65th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933 should serve as a reminder of the brutality of the government of the former Soviet Union's repressive policies toward the Ukrainian people.

H. Con. Res. 320. Concurrent resolution supporting the Baltic people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and condemning the Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression of August 23, 1939.

H. Con. Res. 334. Concurrent resolution relating to Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2186) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2431) to establish an Office of Religious Persecutions Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanction against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend title VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2886) to provide for a demonstration project in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, under which a private contractor will perform multiple resource management activities for that unit of the National Forest System.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3528) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the use of alternative dispute resolution process in United States district courts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3796) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to con-

vey the administrative site for the Rogue River National Forest and use the proceeds for the construction or improvement of offices and support buildings for the Rogue River National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3903) to provide for an exchange of lands located near Gustavus, Alaska, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4309) to provide a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 391. An act to provide for the disposition of certain funds appropriated to pay judgment in favor of the Mississippi Sioux Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 852. An act to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, nonrepairable, and rebuild vehicles.

S. 1408. An act to establish the Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

S. 1525. An act to provide financial assistance for higher education to the dependents of Federal, State, and local public safety officers who are killed or permanently and totally disabled as the result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 469. An act to designate a portion of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S. 1677. An act to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

S. 1718. An act to amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 to authorize the acquisition of additional acreage for the historic site to permit the development of visitor and administrative facilities and to authorize the appropriations of additional amounts for the acquisition of real and personal property.

H.R. 4110. An act to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to make various improvements in education, housing, and cemetery programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 231. An act to establish the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 1333. An act to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to allow national park units that cannot charge an entrance or admission fee to retain other fees and charges.

S. 2106. An act to expand the boundaries of Arches National Park, Utah, to include portions of certain drainages that are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and to include a portion of Fish Seep Draw owned by the State of Utah, and for other purposes.

S. 2240. An act to establish the Adams National Historic Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

S. 2246. An act to amend the Act which establish the Federal Law Olmstead National Historic Site, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by modifying the boundary, and for other purposes.

S. 2285. An act to establish a commission, in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, to further protect sites of importance in the historic efforts to secure equal rights for women.

S. 2413. An act providing the conveyance of Woodland Lake Park tract in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in the State of Arizona unless the conveyance is made to the town of Pinetop-Lakeside or is authorized by Act of Congress.

S. 2427. An act to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the legislative authority for the Black Patriots Foundation to establish a commemorative work.

S. 2468. An act to designate the Biscayne National Park Visitor Center as the Dante Fascell Visitor Center.

S.J. Res. 58. Joint resolution recognizing the accomplishments of Inspectors General since their creation in 1978 in preventing and detecting waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and in promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 145. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 134. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary: Report to accompany the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 44) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims (Rept. No. 105-408).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3687) to authorize prepayment of amounts due under a water reclamation project contract for the Canadian River Project, Texas (Rept. No. 105-410).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1427: A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to preserve lowpower television stations that provide community broadcasting, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-411).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2625. A bill to impose restrictions on the sale of cigars; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2626. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a children's enrollment performance bonus; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2627. A bill to amend the powers of the Secretary of the Treasury to regulate the manufacture, distribution, and sale of firearms and ammunition, and to expand the jurisdiction of the Secretary to include firearm products and nonpowder firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MACK:

S. 2628. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deductibility of business meal expenses for individuals subject to Federal hours of service; to the Committee on Finance.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2626. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a children's enrollment performance bonus; to the Committee on Finance.

#### THE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN ACT OF 1998

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, during last year's passage of the balanced budget agreement, Congress achieved a great victory. We created a new \$24 billion program to fund children's health—the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Even with that historic effort, our work is far from finished. There are 10 million children in this country without health insurance. But even more troubling is that nearly half of these children are eligible for Medicaid health coverage yet remain unenrolled.

This is the great tragedy of Medicaid. Barriers to enrollment like complicated application forms, inaccessible sign-up procedures, and demeaning eligibility processes are preventing families from enrolling their kids. A recent report by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) stressed the need for states to engage in outreach activities to increase enrollment of Medicaid-eligible children. Likewise, President Clinton recently identified Medicaid outreach as a high priority of his administration.

The bill I am introducing today would go a long way toward getting these children enrolled. This bill, the Health Care for America's Children Act of 1998, would create an incentive program to reward states who engage in outreach activities to enroll the 4.7 million uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid. States who employ effective outreach activities like shortened and simplified applications, presumptive and continuous eligibility,

and outstationing of eligibility workers in schools and day care centers, would be eligible for a performance bonus.

State adoption of these outreach activities is critical to removing the barriers to enrollment and ensuring that all eligible children get the Medicaid health insurance to which they are already entitled. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), adoption of these outreach measures would increase the number of children enrolled in Medicaid by 700,000 each year after the year 2000. That means that by the year 2007, we could have all eligible children covered.

Lack of health insurance can be devastating to the health status of children. Children without health insurance are four times more likely to go without needed medical or surgical care. And children without health care are less likely to grow up to be healthy productive adults, less likely to receive timely preventive care, and less likely to receive treatment even for serious illnesses.

Unmet health care needs also translate into higher costs over the long run. Uninsured children are more likely to need emergency room care at twice the cost of office-based care. Each dollar invested in immunization saves \$7.40 in future medical costs.

Ensuring that children have access to health care is an investment in our future. Over 10 million uninsured children in this country is a crisis. But it is a travesty that we have the means to cover almost half of these children and are failing to do so. In the words of Albert Camus (CAM-OO), "perhaps we cannot prevent this from being our world which children suffer, but we can lessen the number of suffering children."

Mr. President, I ask that the Health Care for America's Children Act of 1998 be included in its entirety in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2626

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Health Care for America's Children Act of 1998".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Over 10,000,000 children in the United States, 1 in 7, lack health insurance coverage.

(2) Nearly half of those children (4,700,000) are eligible for health benefits coverage through the Medicaid program but are not enrolled in that program.

(3) Children without health insurance coverage are 4 times more likely to go without needed medical or surgical care.

(4) One out of 5 children who are uninsured for a year or longer are missing all of their current immunizations.

(5) Children without health insurance are less likely to have a family doctor, less likely to receive timely preventive care, and less likely to receive treatment, even for serious illnesses.